

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

/108 W

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R 211745Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7993

INFO AMCNSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 2265

EO 11652 NA

TAGS EMIN ENRG, GR

SUBJ: PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

REF (A) ATHENS 559; (B) ATHENS 2244

1. INDUSTRY MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED THAT INDUSTRY MINISTER KONOFAGOS HAS INVITED SELECTED FOREIGN FIRMS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS (BY APR 15) FOR SEISMIC STUDY IN KAVALLA AND NESTOS RIVER DELTA AREAS, WITH WORK SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE-JULY. THOUGH OFFICIAL DECLINED TO GIVE TOTAL NUMBER AND IDENTITIES OF INVITED FIRMS, HE NAMED: (1) WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL CO. OF AMERICA, ISLEWROTH, MIDDLESEX, T.W. 76 EN ENGLAND; (2) DRESSER OLYMPIC, DRESSER TOWER, 601 JEFFERSON ST., BOX 6504, HOUSTON, TX 77005, AS ONLY TWO US FIRMS ON LIST.

2. KAVALLA/NESTOS SEISMIC STUDY WILL BE FIRST PETROLUUM EXPLOTORY WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER SUPERVISION OF NEW PUBLIC PETROLEUM CORPORATION

(WHICH THOUGH ALREADY FUNCTIONING, IS NOT YET LEGALLY REGISTERED), WHICH WILL COORDINATE RESEARCH, EXAMINE FINDINGS, AND DETERMINE GOG PROCEDURE SHOULD DRILLING ALSO BE REQUIRED. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS GOG WILL HIRE FOREIGN FIRMS TO CONDUCT ANY DRILLING CONNECTED TO
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KAVALLA/NESTOS EXPLORATION.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HEARD AS FAR BACK AS MED-1974 THAT BOTH OCEANIC AND ANSCHUTZ, WHO HAVE ACTIVE CONCESSIONS IN NORTHERN GREECE, HAVE APPLIED FOR THE NESTOS DELTA AREA AS WELL. EMBASSY HAS HEARD INFORMALLY THAT SOME AREAS OF POSSIBLE OIL EXPLORATION, EG NORTHER GREECE, WILL BE DENOMINATED STRATEGIC AREAS. IN SUCH AREAS, EXPLORATION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY FOREIGN FIRMS UNDER CONTRACT TO PUBLIC PETROLEUM CORPORATION, NOT OF FOREIGN COMPANY'S OWN ACCOUNT AS CONCESSIONAIRE. EXPLORATION IN NON-STRATIG AREAS MAY BE LET OUT ON BID TO PROSPECTIVE CONCESSIONAIRES. THIS ASPECT OF GOG POLICY AS YET MEITHER DETAILED NOR CLEAR. KUBISCH

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